



**Frederick County
Government
Frederick, Maryland**

News Release

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COURT UPHOLDS ELECTION OFFICIAL'S REJECTION OF CHARTER PETITION

FREDERICK, MD – Judge John Tisdale of the Frederick County Circuit Court today affirmed a ruling by Frederick County Election Director Stuart Harvey that said petitioners failed to collect the 2,000 valid signatures required by the Maryland Constitution for a special election to select members of a charter-writing board. Only 1,741 signatures were approved of the 2,915 collected.

President Blaine Young of the Frederick Board of County Commissioners commented, “Judge Tisdale’s ruling upheld the decision by Director Harvey, who is one of the most experienced and well respected elections officials in the state. The Charter Board appointed by the County Commissioners has been working tirelessly to seek public input before drafting a charter for local government, and today’s decision will allow them to continue moving full-steam ahead without a legal challenge to overshadow their efforts.

“The County Commissioners ran on a platform that we would support the creation and establishment of a Charter Board to write a proposed constitution to alter our form of government. Every municipality in Frederick County is run by a Charter government, and we believe that it is time to change from a commissioner form of government to a Charter government with local autonomy and authority. A Charter government in Frederick County would also be set up with a check and balance system with an executive and a legislative body.

“We conducted a very public and open process in seeking applicants and selecting the current Charter Board members. Although we appointed the Board, they are now fully autonomous and do not report to nor act at the direction of the County Commissioners.”

(more)

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The Charter Board holds open meetings televised on the local government cable station, FCG TV, channel 19, and on the county's webcasting site at www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/video.

The citizens will have a chance to voice their opinions about the Charter form of government in the November 2012 General Election.

For additional information on the Charter Board, visit www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/charter or contact Legislative Coordinator Ragen Cherney at 301-600-1049 or via e-mail at rcherney@FrederickCountyMD.gov.

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